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U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice

Crime Analysis

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OFFENSE/INCIDENT REPORT

(1) SERVICE NO.

(2) BEAT | (3) WATCH | (4) DATE OF REPORT | (5) DISP. AS | (6) COMPLAINANT OR FIRM (LAST NAME FIRST)

(7) OFFENSE/INCIDENT | (8) CLASSIFICATION | (9) COMPLAINANT'S ADDRESS CITY

(10) LOCATION OF OFFENSE - MAIL ADDRESS | (11) TYPE PREM. | (12) COMP'S BUS. / SCHOOL ADDRESS CITY

DAY(s) OF OCCURRENCE (13) | DATE(s) OF OCCURRENCE | HOUR(s) OF OCCURRENCE | (14) COMP'S. JOB TITLE/OCCUPATION | (15) HOURS WORKED | (16) RELATED

(17) INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION(s) NOTIFIED | ER CONDITIONS AT TIME OF OFFENSE

(19) REPORTING OFFICER I.D. OTHER OFFICER | NT NO. | (21) INVESTIGATOR ASSIGNED

(22) STATUS: ☐ OPEN ☐ | WED BY | (27) U.C.R. DISPOSITI

INJ. PER. | (28) VICTI | TION

(32) CODES | CODE | QTY | AL CONDITION) | SERIAL NO.

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National Institute of Justice
Harry M. Bratt, *Acting Director*

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Crime Analysis

Increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of police services is the goal of today's police manager. There are many views on how to achieve this goal, but all agree that such efforts must be based on solid information.

Police have collected data on many aspects of criminal activity for years. These data are usually filed and stored. Timely analysis of current data, however, can provide important information--information that can serve as the basis for recommendations for improved methods of operation.

The key to turning filed data into an instrument for change is crime analysis. And, basic to planning for long-range policy changes is crime information analysis. This pamphlet defines and describes these two indispensable tools for police managers.

Is there a difference between crime analysis and crime information analysis?

Crime analysis uses current data for tactical and strategic planning. Planning in the long-range sense is served by crime information analysis. Both have proved valuable assets to police management.

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What is crime analysis?

- A set of systematic, analytical processes directed at providing timely and pertinent information relative to crime patterns and trend correlations.
- A tool to assist operational and administrative personnel in planning the deployment of resources for the prevention and suppression of criminal activities.
- An aid in the investigative process and in increasing apprehensions and clearance rates.

What is crime information analysis?

- The retrospective analysis of specific and aggregate crime analysis data.
- A tool to assist planning and policymaking personnel in formulating long-range goals and objectives for the delivery of police services.
- An aid in measuring the effectiveness of police service delivery.

What is involved in the crime analysis process?

There are three vital steps in the crime analysis process: data collection, analysis, and dissemination.

Data collection--how the data are gathered and filed.

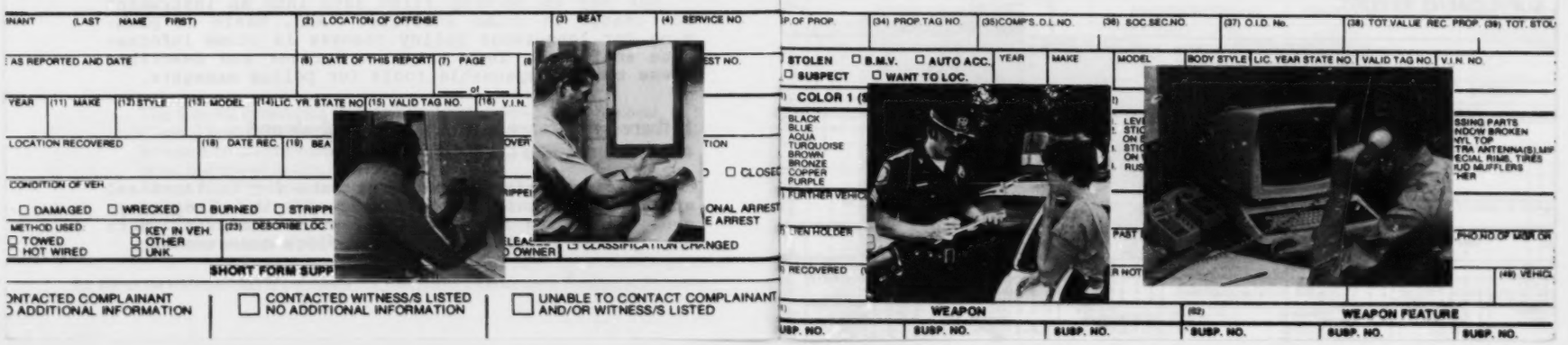
- Field reporting procedures
- Information flow through the department
- Field report review process
- Overall records management
- Timely and accurate information for analysis

Analysis--how the data are analyzed and manipulated.

- Identification of crime incident characteristics
- Comparison of incident characteristics with similar data on file
- Identification of developing patterns or trends

Dissemination--how the information is directed to field personnel.

- Daily information bulletins
- Crime analysis "recap" bulletins
- Weekly crime reports
- Patrol operations bulletins
- Crime-specific memorandums
- Responses to special requests



How is crime analysis used in tactical operations?

After reviewing reports on 40 unsolved murders, crime analysts in Fort Worth, Texas, provided homicide detectives with new leads that helped to clear 8 of those cases, with 5 additional cases headed for closure as well. In fact, the crime analysis unit claims that every 2 or 3 days they furnish enough solid information to lead to an arrest.

Crime analysis is used in combination with intelligence analysis in tactical applications. The crime analysis process is dependent upon accurate, complete, and timely data collection by field personnel. Crime analysts screen field investigation, followup, booking, arrest, parole, and other reports for data elements that can provide tactical information. Incident, victim and suspect characteristics, suspect methods of operation, and descriptions of stolen vehicles or other property are extracted from these reports for analysis; this information is then compared to similar information in existing files.

Several types of information emerge from this analysis and comparison. Geographic analysis indicates where crimes have been committed, often pinpointing particular police beat sectors. Time-specific information reveals the times during the day when crimes occur--important information for patrol shifts. Crime-specific reviews examine patterns or trends for specific target crimes such as burglary, robbery, and assault. By combining these three elements analysts create beat profiles--

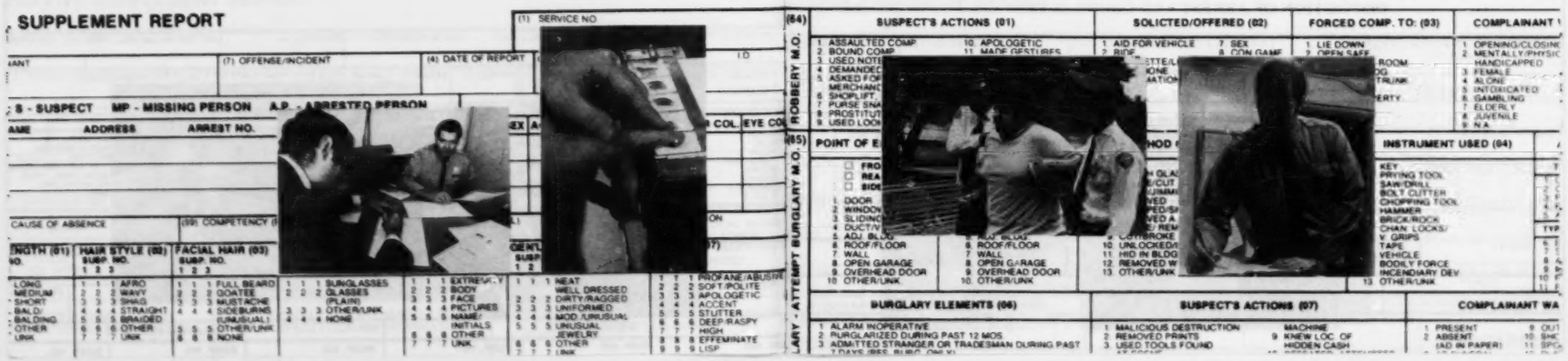
"what-where-when" descriptions of a criminal activity with a given beat area during a specific time period.

Intelligence analysis, in the crime analysis context, is the process of collecting, evaluating, analyzing, and disseminating information about known or suspected criminals. Through the complex process of matching modus operandi to suspect names and aliases, intelligence analysis can increase apprehensions by providing field personnel with suspect names for specific crimes they are investigating.

Crime analysis supports tactical operations by . . .

- Identifying existent crime patterns
- Increasing the number of cases cleared by arrest
- Providing leads for investigations

Through periodic reports, crime analysts keep field personnel abreast of evolving or existent crime patterns and aware of the activity of known and suspected criminals. By providing information on probable crime targets and likely suspects, crime analysis can help focus the 40 percent of patrol time currently devoted to random patrolling. In another important application of crime analysis, special reports can be generated to support specific investigations by suggesting new leads or suspects.



How is crime analysis used in strategic planning?

The Racine, Wisconsin, police launched an all-out effort to stop the burglar whose territory earned him the nickname "Westside Burglar." Based on crime analysis information about modus operandi and partial vehicle description, the police enlisted citizen cooperation through radio, TV, and door-to-door contacts. Tips turned in by the public led to the arrest of the Westside Burglar.

Geographic and time-specific crime analyses furnish patrol planners with trend information useful in designing patrol strategies. In areas where diversified land use produces a variety of crime patterns, beat sectors can be laid out and shifts scheduled to reflect those patterns. Valuable personnel and resources can then be allocated where and when they will be most effective. Crime-specific analyses aid police managers in planning specific crime prevention activities. Special operation units can be deployed on the basis of information supplied by the crime analysis unit.

Operations analysis is another phase of strategic crime analysis. Analysis of the impact and effectiveness of enforcement activities gives commanders and managers a framework for changing operations or the deployment of resources as needed.

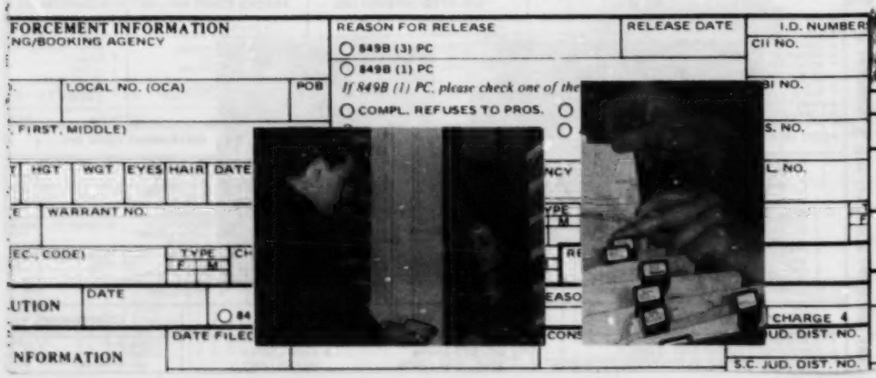
Crime analysis supports strategic planning by . . .

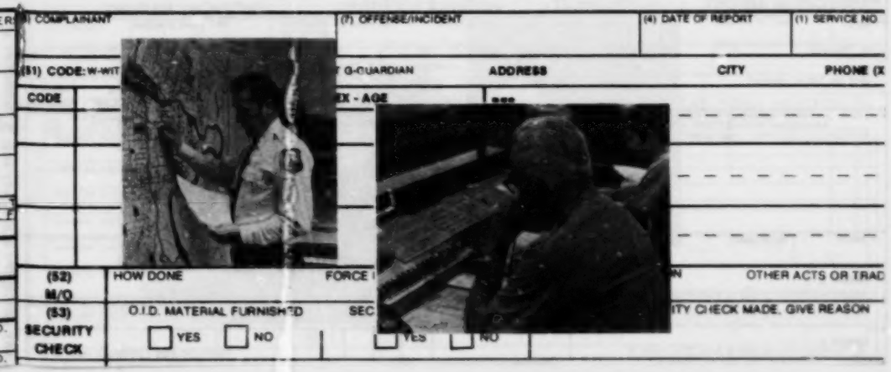
- Establishing operational data for patrol planning and deployment of special operation units
- Furnishing support data to crime prevention activities
- Furnishing reports based on crime thresholds for initiating controlled proactive deployment, suppression, target-hardening activities.

How is crime information analysis used?

In Memphis, police patrols park their cars in high-crime areas pinpointed by the crime analysis unit and patrol on foot for 2 hours out of every 8-hour shift. Both crime and gas consumption have been reduced!

Crime analysis also generates information helpful to police policymakers. Retrospective analysis of both specific and aggregate crime analysis data provides important information about program and departmental effectiveness. Budgeting, manpower planning, and program development are supported by crime information analysis. Aggregate crime analysis data are also reported to state and Federal agencies for Uniform Crime Reporting purposes.





What can we expect from crime analysis?

Crime analysis supports police decisionmaking in the five key areas of patrol deployment, patrol investigations, investigation case screening, special operations deployment, and strategic crime targeting. Crime analysis is not a substitute for sound management practices or operations. However, it can be a valuable tool for improving--

- Analysis for operational planning
- Strategic and tactical decisionmaking through analysis of pertinent information
- Ability of department to monitor crime situation through crime analysis
- Ability of department to obtain knowledge of known criminals through intelligence analysis
- Ability of department to manage allocation and deployment of resources through operations analysis

Crime information analysis supports long-range planning needs by . . .

- Furnishing crime trend data for input into overall department planning, targeting, and budgeting
- Furnishing crime data for Uniform Crime Reports

Additional Questions and Answers About Crime Analysis

Q. What is the impact of crime analysis on a department's budget?

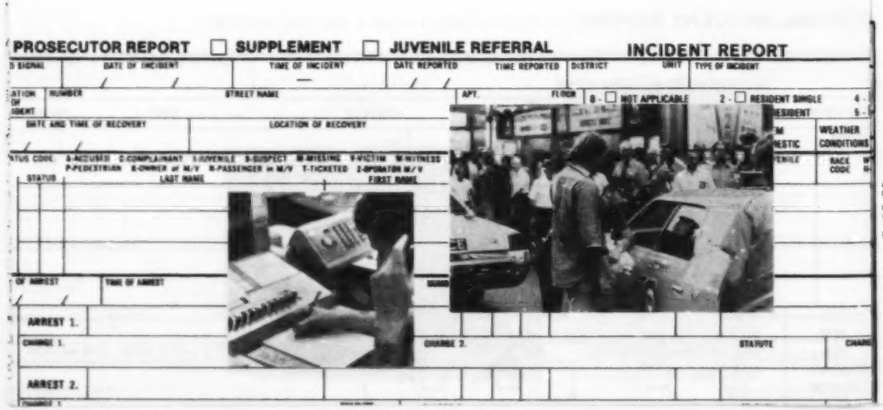
A. Salaries for analysts, support staff, office supplies, and equipment. However, the department can realize a reduction in some current costs: Better management of resources may result in less overtime and elimination of of duplicated investigative effort; random patrolling can be focused, reducing gasoline use.

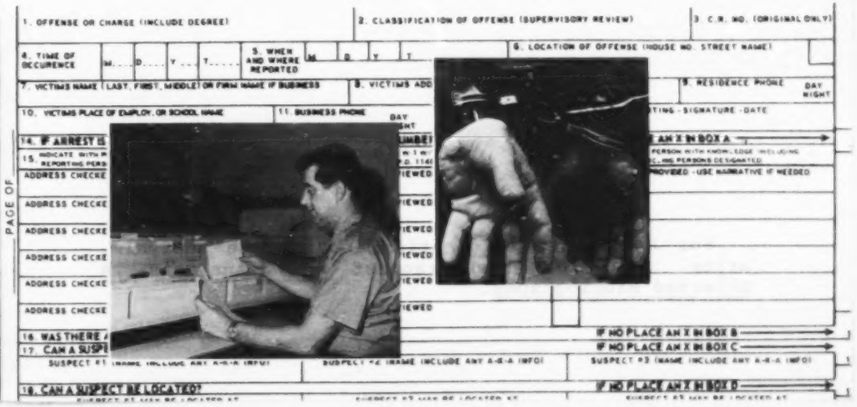
Q. Does crime analysis require a computer?

A. No. A computer will aid crime analysis by reducing information turnover time in very large departments, however, crime analysis should not be automated until unit and department requirements have been examined in depth and a workable operation developed.

Q. Who does crime analysis?

A. Both sworn and civilian personnel. In at least three departments, senior citizens have served as very successful crime analysts.




1. OFFENSE OR CHARGE (INCLUDE DEGREE)
2. CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENSE (SUPERVISORY REVIEW)
3. C.R. NO. (ORIGINAL ONLY)
4. TIME OF OCCURRENCE
5. WHEN AND WHERE REPORTED
6. LOCATION OF OFFENSE (HOUSE NO. STREET NAME)
7. VICTIM'S NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE) OR FIRM NAME IF BUSINESS
8. VICTIM'S ADD
9. RESIDENCE PHONE
10. VICTIM'S PLACE OF EMPLOY. OR SCHOOL NAME
11. BUSINESS PHONE
PAGE OF

Q. Does crime analysis create a lot of paperwork for field personnel?

A. No. If current reporting procedures are effective, little if any additional paperwork should be necessary. Ineffective reporting procedures will need to be changed, but this may reduce paper workload. In nearly all departments that now have crime analysis units, the number of report forms has been dramatically reduced.

Q. How long does crime analysis take?

A. Tactical crime analysis, to be useful, must be timely. Information should be turned around in 3 to 24 hours.

Q. What about training?

A. The best way to train crime analysts is to arrange for staff to work as interns in departments that have already set up crime analysis units. For further information about training, write:

Office of Criminal Justice Programs
Law Enforcement Division
Law Enforcement Assistance Administration
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20531

For additional information about crime analysis, write to NCJRS and request Crime Analysis: A Selected Bibliography.

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